



# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

# AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

# NEWSPAPER.

conditions. Even a man who is prejudiced against "such farming," imitates them and is instructed. This successful trial prompts them to seek further information in respect to their business from books, journals and lectures, that they may make additional improvements.

Soon there is a desire to compare their crops and stock with those of other towns, and various organizations are formed to hold annual fairs, where a general rivalry is excited; the products of the dairy, the herd, the flock, the orchard and field are exhibited and compared. Processes and methods which led to favorable results are studied, known and adopted, and diffusion, and henceforth progress is made. Premiums are awarded for the most deserving animals, fruits and crops; and these again are sent to the larger areas of the State or national exhibition to undergo a similar ordeal.

From these county and State associations, the Maine Board of Agriculture springs into existence, and bids competition with other boards, and various organizations which each member turns up and scatters broadcast when he returns to those he represents; or our selected agent collects and combines the aggregate knowledge derived from all these valuable sources, to the end that we may have extensive observation and comprehensive research, and produces a work which conveys information to the whole community, of invaluable value such as can not be obtained elsewhere.

This is the result in one case at least. Remove a single link in the chain, and you make a serious break. Destroy the efficiency of town and county organizations, and the important work of education will still continue.

In this effectual way, an attempt has been made

to indicate some of the methods by which an education can best be promoted which shall contribute to the health, longevity and welfare of mankind. In a treatise, my friends, who were never authors, and who quibbled by Hercules, and buried senseless to the ground, as often as he touched mortal earth, he revived with all his might, energy and vigor. Under the guidance of the author, the important work of education will still continue, the native soil or contact with it invigorates the constitution and promotes vitality. Ample statistics confirm it, for they show that the average duration of the farmer's life is longer than that of any other class. The sturdy student, the judicious mechanic, the pious merchant, has often taken a new lease of life by hastening to the country in early manhood. As the influences of age were exercised on them, their health and happiness are desirable for our children; it constitutes an additional motion to give them such education as shall inspire them with a fondness for the cultivation of the soil. A school for that purpose has been established; but recently a work entitled "A Manual of Agriculture" has been published, which, from a hasty examination, seems to be better suited to the schoolroom than to the field. It is the duty of the press on that subject. It is an outlet or compend of the principal scientific facts and principles connected with agriculture expressed in a plain, concise, intelligible language, so that it can easily be understood by all pupils who have advanced far enough to comprehend such branches as grammar and geography. Its study would teach the young to value the soil, and induce them to much neglect, and would create a thirst for more knowledge only to be allayed in higher seminaries of learning.

A Physical Geography, lately issued from the pen of Mr. Walter Wells, is of such decided merit that it richly deserves it. Its adoption to the wants of the young it far surpasses all previous books on this subject. In style it is lucid, interesting and instructive, and in its facts interesting and instructive, in its discussion of the causes of, and reasons for these facts just and suggestive. It is one of the most valuable contributions to science, and the appearance of such works is one of the most auspicious signs of the times. It indicates the dawn of an era when scientific knowledge shall be more generally diffused.

As it treats of "the formation and elementary constitution of soils, the influence of the atmosphere, rains and vegetation, upon the state of the earth, the relation of the elements of soil to plants, and animals which have an important bearing upon agriculture, it may very properly be endorsed and commended by this Board."

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"There is one subject pertaining to agriculture to which I herewith take the liberty to call your attention in your capacity as guardians and advisers of the agricultural interests of the people. It is the question that attention and support for which I am confident demands. I refer to the subject of introducing the art of agriculture into our common schools. It is a noble friend of mine who has made progress in this field, and I feel the need of giving the study of this science a place in the schools."

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## Congressional Proceedings.

### Foreign News.

### Five Days Later from Europe.

The steamer Nova Scotia from Liverpool 23d and Londonbury 24th ult. arrived at Portland Feb. 5.

**Great Britain.** The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* says it is not true, as some journals represent, that the French Government has taken any steps to bring about a reconciliation between France and Spain.

A speech delivered by Mr. Massay, a member of Parliament, before his constituents at Salford, which he advocated that European powers should interfere to close the struggle by recognizing the Confederates and breaking the blockade, attracted some attention. The *Times* in an editorial on it says: "Let France interfere if she likes. England's true policy is to suffer a little longer, and then to strike a blow which will be long. It may, indeed, be doubtful whether our interference would not rather hasten than postpone the desired event of opened ports and a large supply of cotton. Let us then pursue our honest policy of standing quite alone."

The *Times* publishes a letter from a correspondent calling attention to the fact that the Tuscarora has inflicted two hundred and twenty-four deaths upon the rebels, while the loss to the Union forces is only one hundred and thirty-four.

**France.** The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says that the French Government has decided to make no further preparations for a further movement, as the war is going vigorously forward. The river is high and part of Fort Henry, is overflowed.

Five more regiments are expected from Cairo.

An unfinished fortification, called Fort Hermann, opposite Fort Henry, has been taken possession of.

The panic is so extensive in Tennessee that the troops consider the Union fleet to be its head waters. The last garrison of Fort Henry has taken refuge in Fort Donelson, making the force there between 8000 and 10,000.

The Southern mail captured by Capt. Logan, contained a letter from some high officer, which speaks of the demoralizing effect of the rebel defeat at Somersett. It says another at Fort Henry will be almost irretrievable.

The rebel fleet, however, chased by the gunboat Conestoga, was fired by the crew and abandoned. Several other rebel steamers are said to have fallen into the hands of the gunboats.

The brig West Indian, Captain A. D. C. W. W. Smith, Capt. and A. D. C. Washington, Feb. 7. Secretary Welles has received the following dispatch:

U. S. FLAG CINCINNATI.

Off Fort Henry, Tennessee river Feb. 6.

The gunboats under my charge, consisting of the Essex, Conestoga, the Carondelet, the Wabash, the Cincinnati, the Ohio, the Mississippi, the St. Louis, the New Orleans, the Vicksburg, the Alton, the St. Louis, the New York, the New Haven, and the New Bedford, still continued at the date of the last dispatch.

At dark last night the firing was still going on. The Federals had sunk two or three rebel gunboats. Some later news has been received at Norfolk, but it was not communicated to our boat.

Gen. Thomas' advance is at Monticello and can not proceed to and west of the loyal

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

# AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

## Family Fireside Talk.

### LIFE'S BATTLE FIELD.

Each has his own path in life,  
A circuit wide and long;  
And a small circle, too, perchance—  
With a narrow road to run;  
And duties are not truly done;  
By panting vainly after fame,  
Or by the love of gain;To quickly make a brilliant name.

A brilliant name? Too oft it's  
The phantom that leads many on,

Until too late, that pain and dual  
A better name? Better to let a lonely place,

And labor there with heart and hand,

The quietness of wealth.

Till time and youthful strength depart.

Do I speak saitly? Truth it is  
That in the lowest place of life

A man may find a quiet rest;

And daily toll and strife!

Aye, amid hourly dice and care,

Can shine in virtue great and grand.

As ever gladded ancient Rome?

Life's heroism does not need

A spurious or a lofty name;

May it not be nobler to be true and write

Upon the flaming golden page?

Believe me, glib and smooth go,

What's honest will still offend you;

Which tens-tongued rimer never yet

Blush blazoned or will ever know.

Self-conquest, self-delusion—these

Are the paths to success; but all who

Own them that well temper'd mind,

Prepared alike to win or fall;

Freshness, health, and strength meet

The happy goot or bitter ill;

Unshaken, whether fate the cur

Whom he meets, or fortune may ill!

Each of these words, in better truth,

To guard and strengthen heart and brain

In life's hard scenes, all states them

All states them like silent laws.

The peasant's or merchant's throne?

They bring, in self respect alone!

*Sharp's Magazine.*

TO EARN A HOME.

A STORY FOR THE HARD TIMES.

The other evening I came home with an extra

bill in my pocket—money that I had

earned by out-of-doors work. The fact is, I'm a

clerk in a down-town store, at a salary of \$600

per annum, and a pretty wife and baby to sup-

port out of it.

I suppose this will sound amazingly

small to your two and three thousand dollar officeholders; but nevertheless we strive to live very comfortably, notwithstanding our poverty.

We have a house of our own, and a garden,

and a team of horses, and a team of cattle,

and a team of hogs, and a team of sheep,

and a team of chickens, and a team of turkeys,

and a team of geese, and a team of ducks,

and a team of pigeons, and a team of sparrows,

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